

# ***Community Power Corporation***

The Modular Biopower Company

## **Emerging Small Modular Biopower Systems**

**May 17, 2006**

**NAEMI Biomass & Business  
Training Workshop**

**Art Lilley  
Chairman**

# Agenda

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- CPC
- Modular Biopower
- BioMax Description
- FAQs
- Case Studies

# CPC's Mission

## Mission:

Provide small, modular, biopower systems to the distributed generation market.



Product Development Facility  
Littleton, CO

# Advantages of Small Biopower

- ✓ Uses abundant local biomass residues
- ✓ Fuel flexible
- ✓ Grid quality power
- ✓ Easy to site, connect to grid
- ✓ Small footprint = high power density
- ✓ Dispatchable
- ✓ Modular, able to parallel
- ✓ Cooling, heating, power = high efficiency
- ✓ Fully automatic
- ✓ Reliable: dual fuels
- ✓ Competitive against other distributed generators
- ✓ Standard systems, ideal for mass manufacture

# Biomass Fuels for Downdraft Gasifier

- Good
  - Wood
  - Nutshells
  - Pellets
  - Corn
  - Cubed grasses
- Difficult
  - Sawdust
  - Rice husks
  - Leaves
  - Corn Stover

## BioMax Feedstocks

Successfully Tested

As of February 2006



Pine Wood Chips



Ground Coconut Shell



Pine Bark Chips



Corn Kernels



Almond Nut Skins & Shells



Pecan Shells



Pelletized Switchgrass



Pelletized Orange Skins



Pelletized Grape Skins



Army MRE Packaging



Tennis Shoe Materials + Wood



Date Seeds



Densified MSW 'Fluff'

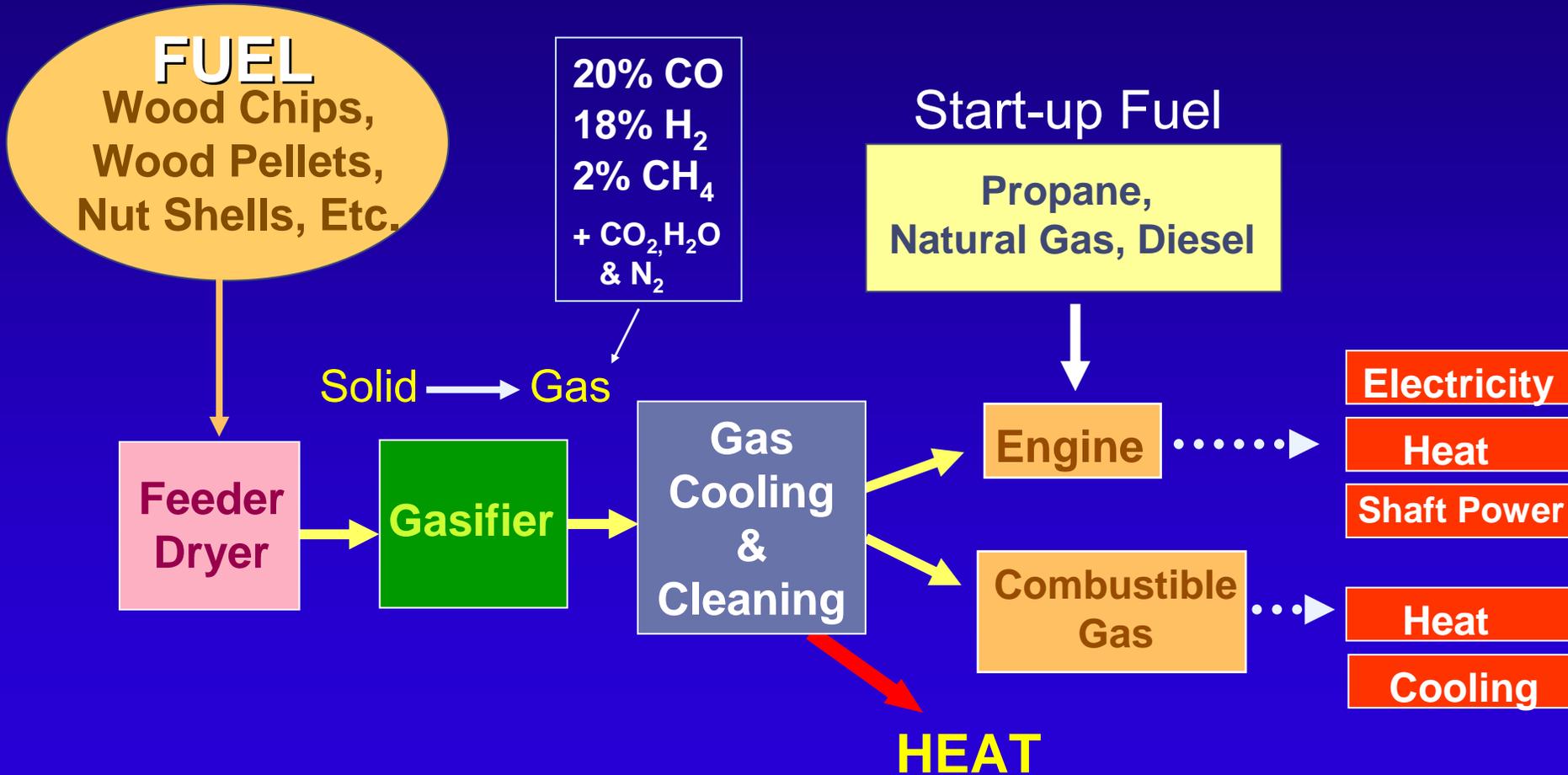


Juniper Wood Chips



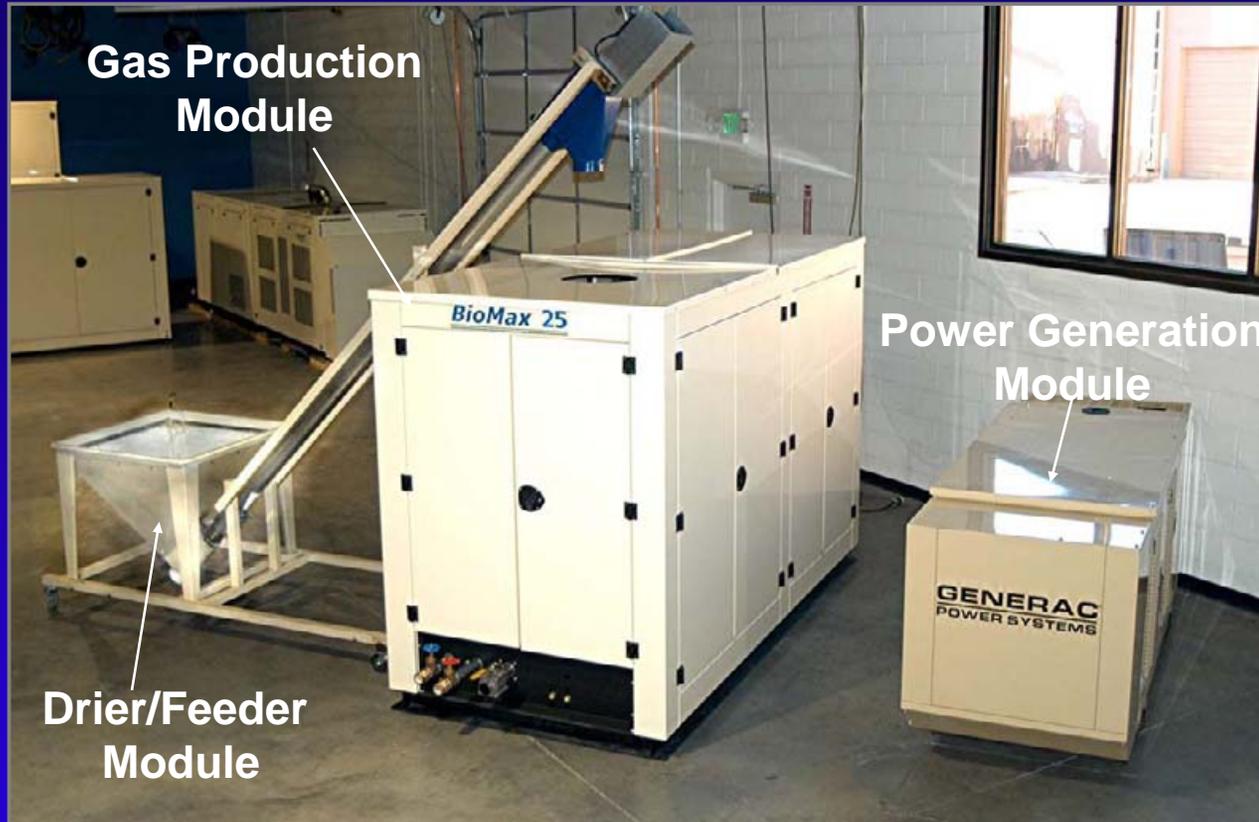
Russian Olive Chips

# BioMax: Converts Woody Biomass to a Clean Fuel Gas for Power, Heat and Cooling



System CH&P Efficiency: >80%

# BioMax 25



# CPC's Renewable Fuel-Gas Generator Is A Versatile Distributed Generation Platform



Gas Production Module



RUNS:

IC Engines ✓

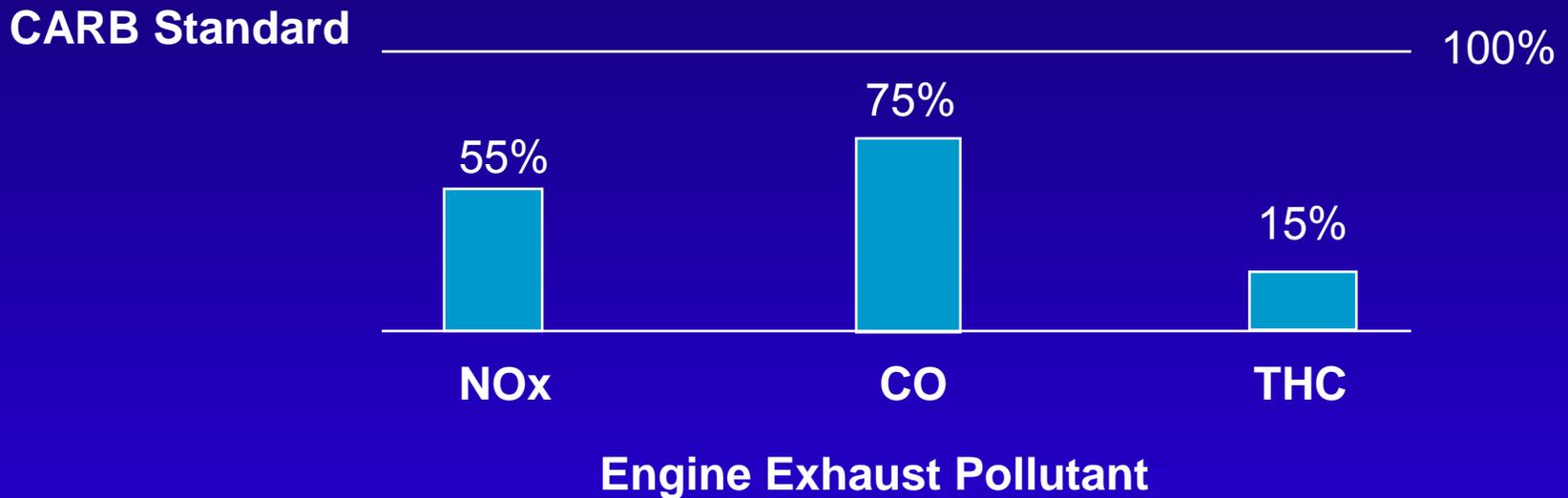
Stirling Engines ✓

Fuel Cells ✓

Microturbines

Driers & Chillers ✓

# EMISSIONS: BioMax Meets Current (CARB)\* Standards



**No Water, No Smoke, No Smell, No harmful effluents**

\* California Air Quality Resources Board  
Standards for Distributed Power and Heat (CHP)

# BioMax Char and Ash Residues Are Non-Hazardous

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**“...the waste stream [*from the BioMax*] neither exhibits a hazardous waste characteristic, nor is it a listed hazardous waste.”**

Reference: Colorado Dept of Health and Environment; Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division

# CPC's New BioMax 50



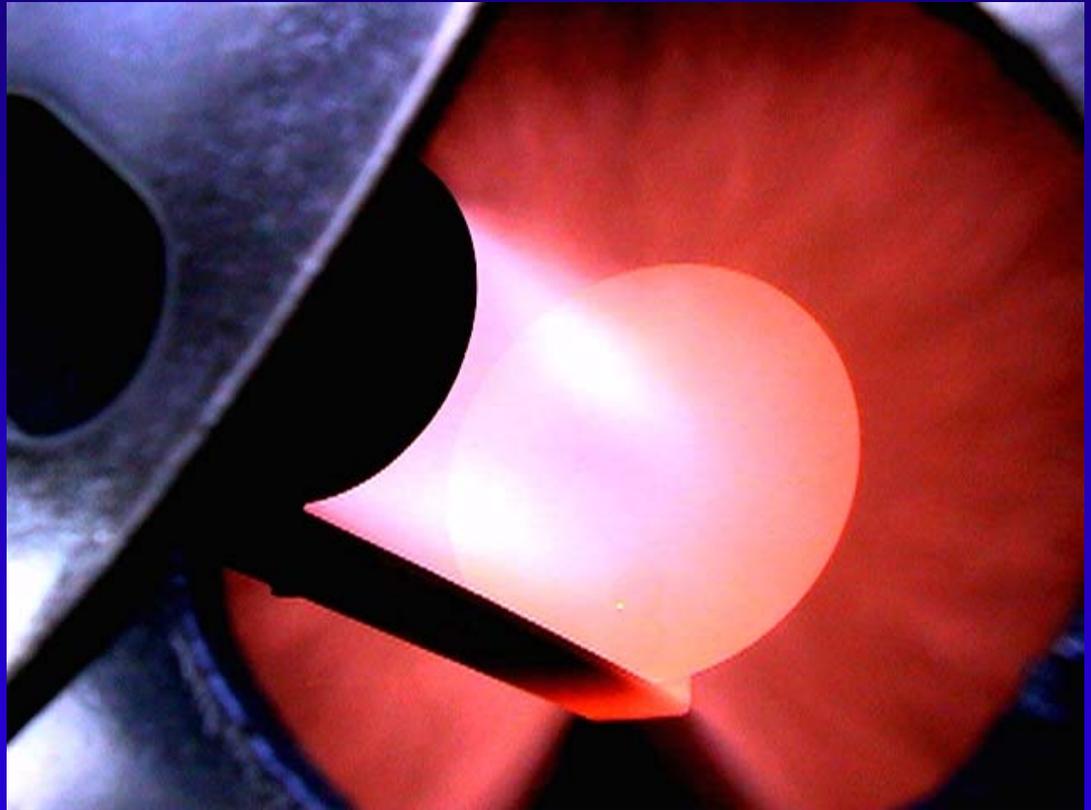
**Pre-prototype Gasifier Testing**

## New Features:

- 24/6 Operation
  - ~1.2 MWhe/day + 12 MM Btu/day
  - Greater control of gasifier
  - Automatic char & ash extraction
  - Continuous dry filtration
- Options:
  - Combined Heat and Power
  - Thermal
- Being upgraded to 75 kW

# CPC's New Thermal System

- Combusts gas directly in burner
- Dual fuel – producer gas and propane
- No need for heat exchanger or filter



**300,000 Btu/hr Burner**  
(Same gasifier as for BM 25)

# First Thermal Application: Lumber Drying

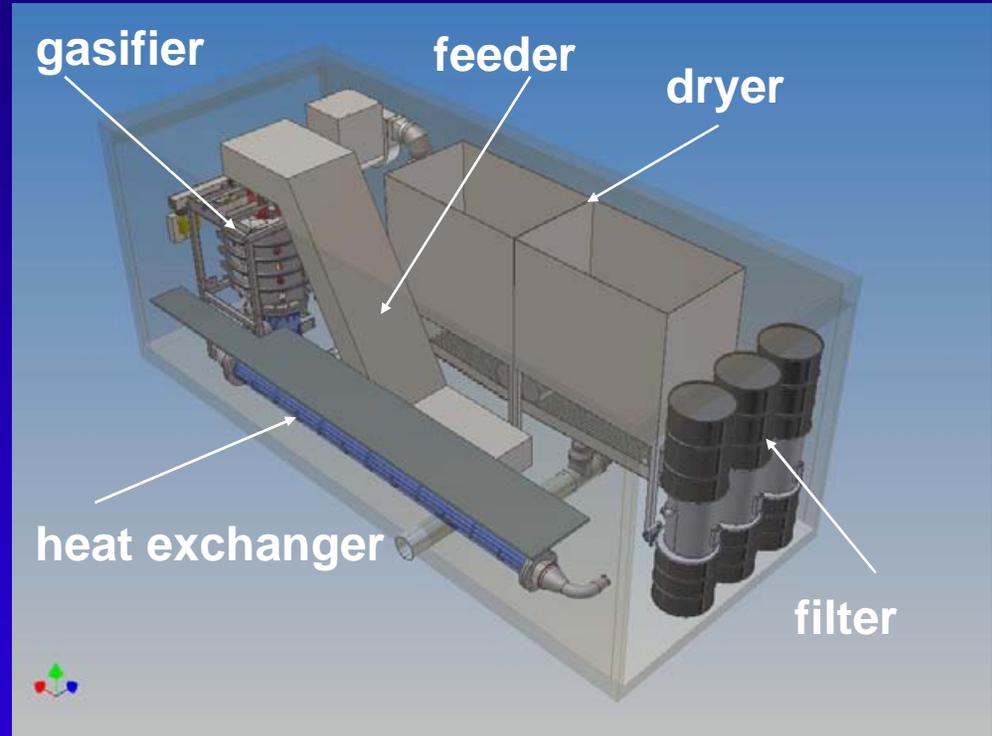
- 3,500 board foot capacity
- Primarily softwood
- Shakedown testing underway
- Host selection process ongoing



**Dry Kiln**

# Containerized BioMax Systems

- 8' x 20' x 8' Container
  - Contains dryer, feeder, gasifier, heat exchanger, and filter.
  - Gen-set external



Containerized BM 25

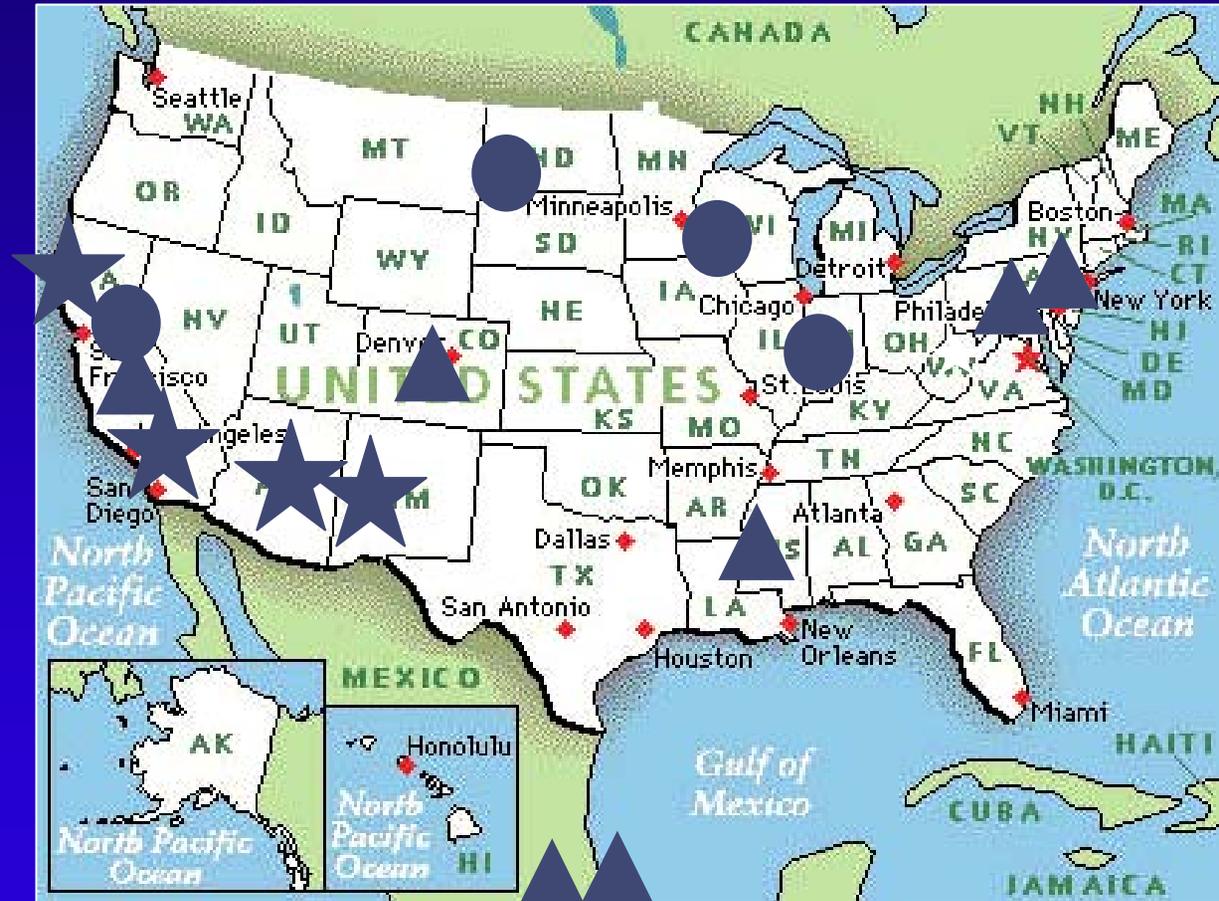
# BioMax Development Partners



# Development & Demonstration Sites

## Location and Size (kW)

- Hoopa - 15
- Zuni, NM - 15
- Ruidoso, NM - 15
- Walden, CO - 15
- Starkville, Ms -15
- Philippines - 15
- San Bernadino, CA -15
- Madison, WI - 5
- Grand Forks, ND -15
- Truckee, CA - 15
- Natick, MA - 25
- Purdue - 25
- Mt. Shasta, CA -25
- El Salvador - 2 x 50
- TBD - 50
- Big Bear Lake, CA - 50
- Mt. Wachusett, MA - 50



Completed Installed In-process

# Frequently Asked Questions

- How much biomass is required?
  - ~2 lb will yield 1 kW<sub>he</sub> + 2 kW<sub>ht</sub>
  - 50 dry lb/hr for 25 kW BioMax
- What kind of biomass is best?
  - Woodchips (most experience to date)
  - Nut shells (easy to feed, minimal pre-processing requirement)
  - Pellets (easy to feed, no pre-processing required)
- Does system need full-time operator?
  - No
  - Part-time attendant duties:
    - Start and stop system
    - Replenish biomass
    - Inspect/maintain
    - Respond to alarms

# Frequently Asked Questions

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- What kind of maintenance is required?
  - Same as for any engine (filter change, oil change)
  - Clean out ash hopper once a week
  - Inspect gasifier internals once per month, remove tramp materials
- What is the footprint of the system?
  - System hardware (25 kW) – 300 sq ft max
  - Biomass storage area determined by user
- How can I use the electricity?
  - Can tie to the grid, sell excess
  - Provide transfer switch, meet on-site loads

# Frequently Asked Questions

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- How can I use the heat?
  - Can heat water and circulate it in hot water system, or
  - Can heat air and use it for space heating (or drying)
  
- Does the BioMax Consume Water?
  - No
  
- What does the BioMax emit as waste?
  - Dry ash with some carbon in it – non hazardous
  - Ash depends on the biomass, but wood is 1% ash
  - 100 lbs of biomass = 1 lb of ash

# Frequently Asked Questions

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- What is life of BioMax?
  - Engine life same as commercial engines
  - Heat exchanger and filter – 20 years
  - Gasifier shell – 20 years
  - Gasifier internals – undetermined, but easily serviceable
- How much does a BioMax cost?
  - Typical current price between \$4,500 and \$7,000/kW
  - Will decrease with volume
  - Depends on a host of factors best determined by a site visit
- Is it economic at this cost?
  - Yes, see following case studies

# Case Study 1: Combined Heat and Power

Assumptions	<u>Financial Return</u>	
	Low	Hi
• Capacity (kW)	62	62
• Electricity (cents/kWh)	8	12
• Gas Heat (\$/MM Btu)	10	14
• Biomass – (\$/ton)	30	0
• Conversion rate (lb/kWhe)	2	1.8
• O&M Cost – (cents/kWh)	3	2
• Capacity Factor – (%)	65	75
• Capital Cost (\$/kW)	4,500	3,500

# Case Study 1: Combined Heat and Power

## Internal Rate of Return

- Results

Low

Hi

0%

40%

- Assumptions

- Capacity (kW)
- Electricity (cents/kWh)
- Gas Heat (\$/MM Btu)
- Biomass – (\$/ton)
- Conversion rate (lb/kWhe)
- O&M Cost – (cents/kWh)
- Capacity Factor – (%)
- Capital Cost (\$/kW)

### Financial Return

Low

Hi

62

62

8

12

10

14

30

0

2

1.8

3

2

65

75

4,500

3,500

# Case Study 2: BioMax Vs PV

• Assumptions	<u>BioMax</u>	<u>PV</u>
• Annual energy (kWhe/yr)	358,000	358,000
• Capacity Factor – (%)	65	20
• Capacity (kW)	62	200
• Electricity (cents/kWh)	11	11
• Gas Heat (\$/MM Btu)	10	0
• Fuel costs – (\$/ton)	30	0
• O&M Cost – (cents/kWh)	3	1
• Capital Cost Now (\$/kW)	4,500	7,250
• Incentives	0	0

# Case Study 2: BioMax Vs PV

## Net Present Value\*

Factor	BioMax	PV	Delta
• Capital Cost	283k	1,450k	1,167k
• Electricity savings	261k	261k	0
• Heat savings	162k	0	162k
• O&M cost	172k	24k	-138k
		Net NPV Savings	1,191k

\*10 yr life, 10% discount rate

# Summary: Best Economics for BioMax

- Displace energy having high retail price
  - Electricity
  - Natural gas
  - Propane
- Competitive against other renewables
  - Capital cost advantage
  - Capacity factor advantage
  - Dispatchable
- Use low cost local Forest or Ag residues
  - At a natural collection point for biomass (e. g. - enterprise)
  - Avoid high disposal costs
- Use both power **and** heat
  - Year round thermal load

# Community Power Corporation

[www.gocpc.com](http://www.gocpc.com)

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